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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR-China

SUBJECT P. A. Yudin's Assignment to China
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1. On 2 Dec 53, P. A. Yudin was appointed Soviet Ambassador to China, succeeding V. V. Kuznetsov, who has been in Peiping since 9 Mar 53. Yudin was transferred from Germany to the Scandinavian theater recently, but the Kremlin grew so dissatisfied with Mao Tse-tung's growing tendency to substitute an Asiatic Bloc policy for the pro-Russian line that after consultations with Kuznetsov in Nov 1953, it was decided to send Yudin.
2. In spite of his position as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kuznetsov is regarded as a very poor diplomat. This change is very important; Yudin is one of the ablest behind-the-scenes plotters the Soviets have, with the possible exception of Zorin. (Zorin, incidentally, takes over Yudin's assignment to the Scandinavian theater.)
3. Yudin's appointment indicates that the Soviets intend to increase their political pressure in Asia. In Moscow it is now believed that EDC will, in one way or another, be effectively hamstrung by France, and the Kremlin is counting on Churchill's assistance in getting China into the UN. This would strengthen the pro-Russian group in the Chinese Politburo, as against the Pan-Asiatic group, which hopes to attain the same result with the help of India. Yudin's chief task will be to arrest the growth of Pan-Asiatic feeling.

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